



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CALIFORNIA WOMAN SENTENCED IN METH CONSPIRACY**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a California woman was sentenced in federal court today for participating in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine in Clinton County, Mo.

**Linda Lorraine Salinas**, 59, of California, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to two years in federal prison without parole.

On Jan. 8, 2004, **Salinas** and two co-defendants pleaded guilty to conspiring to distribute methamphetamine in Clinton County between July 27 and Aug. 3, 2003.

**Salinas** and **Regina Lynn Delacal**, 32, of Oklahoma, were arrested on Aug. 2, 2003, Graves said, when the van in which they were traveling was stopped for speeding on Interstate 35 by a Missouri State Highway Patrol trooper. In a subsequent search of the vehicle, law enforcement officers discovered 1.5 kilograms of methamphetamine and three kilograms of cocaine hidden above the gas tank. **Jesus Jimenez-Gutierrez**, 29, of Minnesota, was arrested after he arrived from Minnesota to retrieve the van, believing it had broken down in Cameron, Mo.

**Salinas** pleaded guilty, admitting that she drove the “load vehicle” from California to Arizona, where the drugs were loaded in the secret compartment, and then drove to Oklahoma, where she met **Delacal**.

**Delacal** pleaded guilty, admitting that she helped drive the “load vehicle” from Oklahoma en route to Minnesota, knowing that it contained illegal drugs. **Delacal** also admitted that she made the same trip on another occasion. On a prior trip, after the delivery of drugs in Minnesota, **Delecal** was allowed to keep the “load vehicle,” which was a motor home.

**Jimenez-Gutierrez** pleaded guilty, admitting that he was recruited to go to Cameron to help repair the van so it could finish its trip to Minnesota, knowing that it contained illegal drugs.

Under federal statutes, **Delecal** and **Jimenez-Gutierrez** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in federal prison without parole, up to life imprisonment, plus a fine up to \$2 million. Their sentences will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Sentencing hearings will be scheduled after the completion of presentence investigations by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Bruce Rhoades. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)